dfo 90th Anniversary
DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Happy 2025, DFO friends!

We begin our club's 90th anniversary year with a "new" *Lark Bunting*. DFO's longtime monthly "newsletter" is now a quarterly "journal." Same look, some different content, but all of it still focused on birds and birding. Check us out now at on the Denver Field Ornithologists website at https://dfobirds.org/DFO/LarkBunting.aspx.

Inside the January 2025 issue:

· ***DFO @ 90*:** Part 1 of a new four-part history of our club by DFO president **Sharon Tinianow,** from its earliest days in the Great Depression to the post-World War II years of change. Parts 2, 3 and 4 will follow in the other three upcoming issues of *The Lark Bunting* in 2025

· ***The Lives of Birds*:** This new recurring essay series by **Jared Del Rosso** begins with a thought-provoking look at Canada Geese, those ever-present birds with which Front Range humans share our parks, open spaces, even backyards in extraordinary ways

· ***Last Word Last Look*:** Our back-of-the-book photo gallery focuses this time on "fence birds" posing on chain-link perches. It's a novel look through the eye and lens of **John C. Breitsch**, our recently departed DFO friend and field trip leader who bequeathed his 10,000-photo Flickr account to DFO

Plus: a super-sized array of DFO "birders birding" pictures from recent field trips, an update on DFO's new "Coffeehouse Chat" in-person monthly get-togethers, a year-in-review from Field Trips chair **David Suddjian**, and much more.

Denver Field Ornithologists

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DFO On the Wing

January 2025

From the editor

As you may have read, The Lark Bunting, our former monthly newsletter, will start a new phase in 2025, morphing into a quarterly journal. In its former monthly slot, we hope you will look forward to DFO On the Wing, Denver Field Ornithologists' NEW monthly newsletter. OTW will be a quick read, just enough to keep you updated on upcoming, time-sensitive club news and events. The Communications & Outreach committee looks forward to your feedback. Thank you! comm@dfobirds.org (Mike Fernandez)

Stream a Live Program

From Bill Turner, DFO Monthly Programs Manager

DFO Programs & Events

Mon, Jan 27, 2025, 7 P.M. MT via webinar.

Nick Korte presents

No Boundaries for Wildlife

Saving Tropical Birds in Colorado

We've all heard the familiar call to activism for Mother Earth: "Think globally, act locally." Longtime western Colorado wildlife conservationist Nic Korte suggests a Western Hemisphere twist to it: Think *tropically*, act locally.

"Local actions here affect birds in the tropics," Korte says, explaining his tropical focus. "Some of those birds spend part of their lives in Colorado."

The motivation behind his DFO talk is to inspire attendees to action: Many birds we think of as locals spend more of their lives in the neotropics, giving us a greater stake in their welfare there.

From David Suddjian, DFO Field Trips Chair

DFO Bird Bombs

Thu, Jan 23, 2025, 7:00 P.M. MT via webinar

David presents

Raptors for Real

Bird Bombs: Identify winter raptors like we see them in the field.

From Natalie Uschner-Arroyo, DFO Hawk Watch Chair

DFO Hawk Watch

Wed, Feb 19, 2025, 7:00 P.M. MT via webinar

Dave Hill presents

Hawk Watch

Informational Hawk Watch Zoom Meeting with Raptor Identification — Dave Hill will lead a session to train you on beginning raptor ID skills and he will share the details about volunteering for Hawk Watch on Dinosaur Ridge.

Take Note of Local Birding News

Park Hill Golf Course Now a Large New Denver Park

Denver mayor Mike Johnston announced on January 15, 2025, that the long-disputed future of what was the Park Hill Golf Course has been settled. Denver has engineered a land swap with the private owners of the property and the city now has ownership. The city's plan is to make the land a new Denver park.

In the most recent citywide vote, in 2023, voters for the second time rejected a plan to turn the land into a major mixed-use development. "We are committed to make this the go-to destination for runners, readers, cyclists, picnickers, birdwatchers, and of course, children and families." Said Johnston.

He added, "The last time this city opened a new park of this size (155 acres), yes there was a press conference, and people came to it in horse and buggy."

Located in northeast Denver north of 35th Avenue on the east side of Colorado Boulevard, the city will tear down the fences once they inspect the property for safety purposes. The next phase is to open the space for visitors to explore (and bird).

For more information and for updates, visit Denver Parks and Recreation, Park Hill Open Space.

Denver Parks & Rec moves to revive City Park

cormorants' nesting colony

An ambitious effort is underway to revive the island in Duck Lake, the site of an enduring urban wildlife attraction for birders and non-birders. The lake's seasonal population has been declining since 2022.

Most of the large cottonwoods that hold the nests are dead or dying. The trees have suffered years of decline from soil-burning, root-killing bird poop, as well as stripping of branches and leaves for nest material.

Read more in the December 2024 (final monthly issue) of The Lark Bunting, page 30.

Join Us in Person

Field trips and Coffeehouse Chats — these are a couple of ways members and guests can refresh in person contact.

FIELD TRIPS

Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information and additional upcoming field trips and other participation opportunities.

Waneka Lake Park & Greenlee Preserve (Patch Birding Trip). Mon, Jan 27, 2025, 7:15-9:30 A.M. MT. Lafayette.

This is part of an ongoing monthly walk series that focuses on getting out early before work to see what birds are around the Waneka/Greenlee/Hecla hotspots. Plan on covering 1.5 miles of flat gravel trails as we scan the lakes, visit the feeders, and check the brush for birds.

Washington Park (Developing Birder Trip). Sat, Feb 1, 2025, 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. MT.

Washington Park is a great location to see a variety of winter birds. We will hope to see a fun assortment of ducks, wintering land birds, and some gulls. This is a great trip for beginning birders and those who enjoy Urban birding with easy access and a nice variety of species.

Hawk Watch On-site Volunteer Field Orientation. Sat, Feb 22, 2025, 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. MT.

Join experienced Hawk Watchers for a trip to the viewing platform on Dinosaur Ridge. You must register in advance to attend. (All Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch volunteers must have a current DFO liability waiver on file.

Coffeehouse Chats

Our new coffee get-togethers are gaining steam.

Coffeehouse Chats, DFO's new series of meetups to foster casual, in-person get-togethers are a fun start to what we hope will become a regular third-Wednesday monthly practice. We've got a Coffeehouse Chats scheduled for March.

After COVID shut down face-to-face attendance at program meetings, DFO shifted our monthly evening gatherings to webinars. Members have since lamented the decline in in-person time together.

These casual coffee meetups around the metro area are a chance to reconnect with DFO friends and make new ones.

The March get-together is set for Wednesday, March 19, 8:30 a.m. in Centennial area, at the "coffeehome" of Kathy Holland, DFO

treasurer. RSVP the host at kcloudview@comcast.net for more details. (BTW, Kathy says she is equipped to make espresso, lattés and Americanos.)

Read more in The Lark Bunting journal, page 10.

We were founded as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935 and renamed Denver Field Ornithologists in 1964. Look for a four-part history of the club in our birthday year's quarterly issues of *The Lark Bunting* journal. And look for *DFO On the Wing* to keep abreast of events to commemorate this milestone for Colorado's oldest bird-related organization, from programs to field trips and more.

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January 23, 2025

DFO monthly program for January presents

No Boundaries for Wildlife

Saving Tropical Birds in Colorado

By Nick Korte
Monday, January 27, 2025
7:00 P.M. MT

REGISTER

We've all heard the familiar call to activism for Mother Earth: "Think globally, act locally." Longtime western Colorado wildlife conservationist **Nic Korte** suggests a Western Hemisphere twist to it: Think *tropically*, act locally.

Local actions here affect birds in the tropics," Korte says, explaining his tropical focus. "Some of those birds spend part of their lives in Colorado."

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DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Bulletin
February 20, 2025

Colorado:
We Need to Talk About Ravens

on Monday, February 24, 2025

7 p.m. MT, via Zoom

REGISTER

Colorado bird authority Nathan Pieplow, a popular DFO speaker, returns in 2025 to challenge and enlighten us on an unexpected topic for a man best known for his command of bird sounds.

How do we tell Colorado's two raven species, Chihuahuan and Common, apart from each other?

And why might we be doing a lousy job of it?

The story springs from a recent article by David Sibley, the renowned national birding artist, in North American Birds, the journal of the American Birding Association. Pieplow says Sibley proposed that at least half, and maybe up to 90%, of photos submitted to eBird from Colorado as Chihuahuan Ravens might be Common Ravens. "If this is true," Pieplow adds, "then the conventional wisdom on raven status, distribution and identification needs some serious revision."

Pieplow wrote the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds (with separate volumes for western and eastern North America), and he is former editor of Colorado Field Ornithologists' quarterly journal, Colorado Birds.

Based in Boulder, he is an assistant professor of writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado.

REGISTER

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Stream a Live Program

Visit the Programs & Events page for more information about upcoming guest, bird-bomb and other programs.

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Based in Boulder, he is an assistant professor of writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado.

Bill Turner, DFO Monthly Program Manager, hosts guest speakers, usually on the fourth Monday in January through April and August through November.

BIRD BOMBS: ID Masters - Spring Edition

Thursday, Mar 13, 2025
7 p.m. MDT
via Zoom

REGISTER

David Suddjian will address timely ID challenges so Colorado birders can be ready for spring migration. In the series, "Colorado ID Masters," Suddjian focuses on the upcoming season's birds.

David Suddjian, DFO Field Trip Chair, presents Bird Bombs, helpful bursts of bird ID information.

Take Note of Good News for Birds

Hawk Watch Grant Award

DFO Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch is delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant from Denver Audubon's Lois Webster Fund to support the Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch project! The Lois Webster Fund supports Colorado nongame wildlife research and education projects that lead to the conservation of these species and their habitats. DFO is honored to receive this grant, and many thanks go to Denver Audubon for their support. Read more about the Lois Webster Fund.

FWS Successes with Bird-Window Strikes

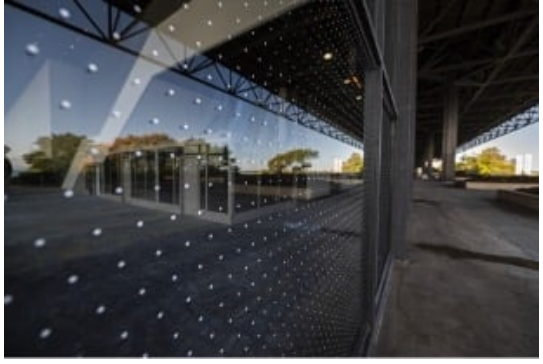
Good news from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about bird-window strikes: Beginning February 2024, the Service has engaged in a collaboration project with a diverse group of partners working towards voluntary implementation of bird-friendly practices — specifically to reduce light pollution and bird collisions.

One night in October 2023

For example, take the project at Chicago's McCormick Place Lakeside Center on Lake Michigan, where in one night in October 2023, a collision event led to the death of nearly 1,000 migratory birds.

Window treatments work

It turns out a polka dot pattern on glass really does save lives. Bird



collision deaths have dropped by as much as 95% at McCormick Place.

Act Locally: Lights Out Denver

For information about how you can help locally with this cause, visit Lights out Denver, an initiative of Denver Parks and Recreation. Part of Denver's commitment as an Urban Bird Treaty City, the program aims to increase awareness of migratory bird collisions with buildings in the City and County of Denver, and to promote practices that can help prevent these needless deaths.

Join Us In Person

Coffeehouse Chat

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 8:30 a.m. MDT

Hosted by Kathy Holland, DFO Treasurer

The March get-together is at the "coffeehome" of Kathy Holland. Join Kathy for a casual chat about all-things birds and birding at her home in Littleton (BTW, Kathy says she is equipped to make espresso, lattés and Americanos.)

REGISTER

Read more in The Lark Bunting journal, January edition, page 10.

Our new coffee get-togethers are gaining steam. Coffeehouse Chats, DFO's new series of meetups to foster casual, in-person get-togethers are a fun start to what we hope will become a regular third-Wednesday monthly practice. These casual coffee meetups around the metro area are a chance to reconnect with DFO friends and make new ones.

Step Up to a Volunteer Role at DFO

DFO is a wholly volunteer-run organization. Volunteers are our lifeblood! Can you give our club a little bit of your time?

There are many opportunities for helping DFO thrive going forward. You can find a complete list on our Volunteer Today webpage. Here are two examples:

Technical Communications Adviser — This is critical if we are going to get back to in-person meetings.

DFO is seeking a member with the technical background to enable us to get back to in-person meetings that can also be livestreamed and recorded. Knowledge and expertise with systems and equipment for online streaming and audio-video recording of live programs is essential.

Hawk Watch Observer — We are excited to return to the hill this spring (March 1 through May 10, 2025) and hope you'll consider lending your eyes on the skies. Interested? Sign up on the Hawk Watch Volunteer page.

Field Trips

Here are just a couple of upcoming field trips. Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information and additional upcoming field trips.

Park County Explorations. Fri, Mar 7, 2025, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. MST. Northern Park County.

This trip will focus on various species of mountain finches at bird feeders: Pine Grosbeak, Brown-capped Rosy-finch, Gray-crowned Rosy-finch, Pine Siskin, and Red Crossbill. If there is interest, we can stop by a private area of the Middle Fork South Platte River to look for American Dippers that have been frequenting the area. Another possibility is a short walk at Sacramento Creek Ranch to look for Cassia Crossbills.

Waneka Lake Park & Greenlee Preserve (Patch Birding Trip). Mon, Mar 10, 2025, 7:30-9:30 a.m. MDT. Lafayette.

This is part of an ongoing monthly walk series that focuses on getting out early before work to see what birds are around the Waneka/Greenlee/Hecla hotspots.

Support Conservation

Belmar Rookery

Residents fighting a proposed apartment building development at the edge of Belmar Park, a popular park in the middle of Lakewood, have hit some roadblocks in recent weeks...

... most notably with a judge's order stopping the city from enforcing a new land-use measure that would have protected the park.

Residents fighting a proposed apartment building development at the edge of Belmar Park, a popular park in the middle of Lakewood, have hit some roadblocks in recent weeks — most notably with a judge's order stopping the

city from enforcing a new land-use measure that would have protected the park.

Save Open Space Lakewood, the group that is working to prevent a planned demolition and then building of a five-story 412-unit apartment building, says the development threatens to despoil the park and its habitat. The organization considers the park a precious and peaceful city resource on which thousands of migratory birds depend.

Read more on this topic.

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Stream a Live Program

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Mountain Plover Ecology and Conservation in North America

On Monday, March 24, 2025
At 7 p.m. MDT, via Zoom

via Zoom

REGISTER

Mountain Plovers are a wonderful Colorado bird of conservation concern. They will be returning to our prairie region by the end of this month.

Join Angela Dwyer with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, to learn about the unique breeding ecology of this species and how they are working to conserve Mountain Plovers and their habitats in the Great Plains.

What do you know about the Mountain Plover?

A "shorebird" of sorts, that doesn't use the shore... much. This plover, unlike many other plovers, uses habitats only found in the Great Plains and is often found on private lands in agricultural settings.

Angela Dwyer is a program manager with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and has been with the organization since 2012. She has a master's degree in wildlife management. After graduate school, she worked in bird conservation for the National Audubon Society in both North Carolina and Colorado.

At Bird Conservancy, she works at the intersection of grassland bird conservation and collaboration with working private farms and ranches. She works on several collaborative conservation projects and is the International Mountain Plover Working Group Coordinator. She is passionate to share more about the natural connections between birds and livestock on our grassland ecosystems.

Bill Turner, DFO Monthly Program Manager, hosts guest speakers, usually on the fourth Monday in January through April and August through November.

BIRD BOMBS: Habitat Blast — Cone Forests

Thursday, April 10, 2025
At 7 p.m. MDT, via Zoom

REGISTER

David Suddjian will discuss the birds of Colorado's conifer forests.

David Suddjian, DFO Field Trip Chair, presents Bird Bombs, helpful bursts of bird ID information.

Take Note of Good News for Birds

Avian Influenza Outbreak: Should You Take Down Your Bird Feeders?

The bird flu began in 2022

Migratory waterfowl are the most common carriers of avian influenza. There have been relatively few documented cases of HPAI (highly pathogenic avian influenza) in songbirds and other typical feeder visitors.

That means there is currently a low risk of an outbreak among wild songbirds, and no official recommendation to take down feeders (according to the USDA's National Wildlife Disease Program).

The bird flu began in 2022 and in many parts of the world has affected domestic poultry, waterfowl (especially Canada Geese and Mallards), raptors, game birds, seabirds, shorebirds, and other species of birds — plus some mammals. However, songbirds are much less likely than other birds to contract variants of avian influenza and less likely to transmit the disease easily.

The virus is shed in the saliva, mucus, and feces of infected birds and is transmitted to other birds via ingestion or inhalation.

Join Us In Person

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Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 8:30 a.m. MDT

Hosted by Kathy Holland, DFO Treasurer

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There are many opportunities for helping DFO thrive going forward. You can find a complete list on our Volunteer Today webpage.

Field Trips

Here are just a couple of upcoming field trips. Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information and additional upcoming field trips.

Mon, Mar 7, 2025. Littleton (Developing Birder Trip). 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. (Easy)

This trip will visit a few parks in the western Littleton area, beginning at Robert A. Easton Regional Park. From there we will range south to other spots to see what we can find. We may have a cross section of ducks and other water birds, and maybe some early migrant land birds, too.

Developing Birder Trips are especially welcoming to newer birders wanting to learn more, and questions are encouraged.

Fri, Apr 4, 2025. South Platte River Trail at 88th Avenue and vicinity. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Moderate)

We will see lots of ducks, a few raptors, and some hardy winter residents. Looking for rarities such as the Barrow's Goldeneye will also be part of this winter ecology exploration. We will walk along a paved trail and occasionally in the adjacent grasses.

Accessible

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Bulletin

March 28, 2025

Dinosaur Ridge Raptorthon is Running Now!

AND THE COUNT EVENT IS COMING UP ON APRIL 12

Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch and DFO have launched Raptorthon 2025. Please jump on in.

Raptorthon is an annual fundraising "marathon" for Hawk Watch sites and programs across the continent. In Colorado, it also features a one-day bird count on April 12 (rain date April 13) to gather birder counts of raptor species and all other birds.

The fundraising marathon is open NOW and runs through May 31 (donation website)

Raptorthon raises funds for Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch and its partner, the Hawk Migration Association. We work in tandem to collect and distribute essential raptor migration data from seasonal hawk counts. Visit the Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch main website for more information.

Our Hawk Watch count site is physically located west of Denver on Dinosaur Ridge, an iconic segment of the Dakota Hogback geological formation at the front range of the Rocky Mountains near the towns of Golden and Morrison in Jefferson County, Colorado.

Please consider a donation of any size to help support our hometown Raptorthon team, The Mile High Raptors, and keep Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch running strong.

Visit the Mile High Raptors Raptorthon page to donate.

April 12 one-day shared bird count

Please also join fellow local birders to put up big numbers in a bird count on April 12 (13).

Conduct your count at a location anywhere within the count circle mapped below.

Then share your count with the eBird username "DinoRidgeHawkWatch." Doing that will add to the Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch Raptorthon count in this event. Visit eBird's page with instructions for sharing your count.

Pro-tip: As you prepare to submit your list, during the review step, be sure to indicate more than one observer. That will pop up a an option to "Share checklist with..."

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dfo 90th Anniversary DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Happy spring! The April issue of *The Lark Bunting* quarterly journal of Denver Field Ornithologists is now available on the club website at

https://dfobirds.org/DFO/LarkBunting.aspx?id=1704973219#gsc.tab=0

Inside: DFO @ 90 Part 2, the next installment in our four-part 90th anniversary history of the club, including a sidebar profile of the two eminent Colorado ornithologists who took our club under their wing in its earliest days.

Plus: Jared Del Rosso's take on hummingbirds and our gardens, a celebration of 3 years of "BIRD BOMBS" webinars on bird ID, and **Linda Purcell**'s exploration of scruffy, under-birded "industrial birding" gems around metro Denver you'll want to visit.

Also: An update on this year's Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch, a rundown on 2025 winners of DFO grants for bird-related science, conservation and education, and your guide to this month's DFO election for officers and board members. And more . . . .

Good spring birding!

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Annual Election of DFO Directors and Officers

Greetings DFO Members, It is time once again for the annual election of DFO board members and officers. The DFO Board of Directors meets quarterly and is tasked with governance of the organization. All nominated board members are volunteers and members of DFO in good standing. Please complete your ballot by April 26 at 6pm. To learn more about the candidates, check out the current issue of The Lark Bunting on the DFO website. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Mary Geder at mfg5000@live.com.Thank you for your participation! Mary Geder, Chair Nominating Committee

Begin voting

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The last installment in the 2025 winter-spring series of DFO monthly Zoom programs is **"Research, Education & Conservation in Action,"** on Monday April 23 a 7pm. It will be a kind of show-and-tell session with recipients of last year's grants from the Denver Field Ornithologists' Research, Education and Conservation Fund. Three of the six 2024 grantees will present updates on their research and conservation work.

Please register here: Registration Zoom link

The three grantees are:

1.) Grant recipient Holden Fox, a PhD student at CSU in Fort Collins. Conservation Genomics of Loggerhead Shrike. The Loggerhead Shrike is a partially migratory grassland species that has experienced alarming population declines. However, there is not enough information about its migratory patterns. Holden has been gathering and analyzing genetic information from Loggerhead Shrikes from five western states. He will discuss his research progress to date.

2.) Grant recipient William Churchill Anderson, PhD student, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, CU Boulder, Continued Exploration of a Novel Avian Hybrid Zone" Will is studying the two subspecies of House Wrens that occur in Colorado and their hybrid zone. Understanding hybrids contributes valuable information about speciation and genetic divergence.

3.) Grant recipient Greenwood Wildlife. Greenwood is a large wildlife rehabilitation center near Longmont. They treat thousands of animals, of about 200 species, annually. Their previous Avian Clinic supervisor and supporter, Dr. Alison Hazel, will be speaking. Dr. Hazel received her degree in Veterinary Medicine from Cornell University. Her talk will be titled Wildlife Rehabilitation - the Big Picture.

Denver Field Ornithologists

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DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 90th Anniversary

DFO On the Wing

April 2025

DFO's On-the-Wing in April 2025 brings you an evening program of DFO's research projects, our next coffeehouse chat, upcoming Bird Bombs, field trips and more.

Stream a Live Program

Visit the Programs & Events page for more information about upcoming guest, bird-bomb and other programs.

DFO Research Grant Reports

On Monday, April 28, 2025
At 7 p.m. MT, via Zoom

REGISTER

Holden Fox

Conservation genomics of Loggerhead Shrike

William Churchill Anderson

Exploration of a novel avian hybrid zone

Alison Hazel

Wildlife rehabilitation – The big picture

Emily Braker

Vertebrate zoology collections manager

Three of the recipients of grants from the Denver Field Ornithologists' 2024 Research, Education and Conservation Fund will present updates on their projects.

Conservation genomics of Loggerhead Shrike. Holden Fox, a doctoral student at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, will discuss his grant-winning project. Fox has noted “persistent and widespread declines” among grassland birds. He proposed to conduct a comprehensive genetic analysis of migratory patterns for the Loggerhead.

Exploration of a novel avian hybrid zone. William Churchill Anderson, a doctoral student at CU Boulder’s Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, will report on the research showing that the two subspecies of House Wren found in the US — thought to be more widely separated in the East and West — are in fact occurring together here in Colorado.

Wildlife rehabilitation – The big picture. Alison Hazel, on behalf of the Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Longmont, will update DFO members on our support for sustainingspecialized food and medical supplies based on recovery of individual species not readily available from general-public supply sources.

In addition. This final evening program (before the DFO program’s summer break) will include a bonus presentation by Emily Braker, vertebrate zoology collections manager at the University of Colorado Boulder Museum of Natural History. Her talk will feature images from the museum’s extensive ornithology

Bill Turner, DFO Monthly Program Manager, hosts guest speakers, usually on the fourth Monday in January through April and August through November.

BIRD BOMBS: Habitat Blast — Riparian Zone

On Thursday, May 22, 2025
At 7 p.m. MT, via Zoom

Learn about the bird communities of Colorado's riparian forests and woodlands.

REGISTER

David Suddjian, DFO Field Trip Chair, presents Bird Bombs, helpful bursts of bird ID information.

Those who can’t catch an initial webinar live (often on the second Thursday of the month) can view the Zoom video days later. The three dozen Bird Bombs episodes so far reside in viewable archives on both the DFO website and DFO’s YouTube channel.

Take Note of Good News for Birds

Denver Park Hill Park

A LARGE NEW regional park is emerging — Heads up, birders: Denver wants community input.

A community visioning process will begin on Thursday, April 24, as part of DPR's Youth & Family Field Day to determine priorities and opportunities for a new park that will enrich the lives of Denver area residents and celebrate the natural beauty of the area.

On April 24, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at City of Axum Park, Denver Parks and Recreation will host a visioning process to transform the former Park Hill Golf Course into a regional park.

Visit the Park Hill Park website to stay up to date on what is happening with the park planning process and how you can get involved. Please check back there periodically for updates.

And let's continue planting the seeds for a bird-friendly habitat.

Join Us In Person

Field Trips

Here are just a couple of upcoming field trips. Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information and additional upcoming field trips.

Sun, April 27, 2025. Pueblo area (Aiken Audubon Co-sponsored). 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Moderate)
Let's head down to Pueblo to peruse Runyon Lake, Pueblo City Park, Valco Ponds, and Pueblo Reservoir. It will be fun to see what migrants are coming through, and what rarities might appear.

Fri-Sun, May 2-4, 2025. Southeastern Colorado. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Moderate)
Let's go camping! We have reserved the group campsite at John Martin State Park for Friday and Saturday nights. The Lake Hasty campground is a migration hotspot, and a good basecamp for exploring other Lamar-area southeastern Colorado birding spots.

We'll plan to bird the campground in the mornings, visit spots such as Lamar Community College Woods, Melody Tempel's Grove, Van's Grove, and look for piping plovers. Excellent time of year for shorebirds, warblers, and anything

migrating. Lamar is known for "eastern" species such as Northern Cardinal and Carolina Wren.

David Suddjian is DFO's Field Trip Chair

Coffeehouse Chat

Wednesday, May 21, 8:30 a.m.

Convivio Cafe

4935 West 38th Ave., Denver CO 80212

Convivio is a delightful Guatemalan coffee shop with a variety of coffees and crafts in the Berkeley neighborhood. For birding before or after our coffee, Berkeley and Rocky Mountain Parks are nearby and Clear Creek and Clear Creek Valley Park just a bit further. I would gladly meet folks earlier for a bit of birding then a coffee to relax.

REGISTER

Step Up to a Volunteer Role at DFO

DFO is a volunteer-run organization. Volunteers are our lifeblood! Can you give our club a little bit of your time?

There are many opportunities for helping DFO thrive going forward. You can find a complete list on our Volunteer Today webpage.

DFO On the Wing, Denver Field Ornithologists' monthly newsletter, is designed to be a quick read. It's just enough to keep you updated on time-sensitive club news and events. The Communications & Outreach committee looks forward to your feedback. Thank you! - comm@dfobirds.org (Mike Fernandez)

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dfo 90th Anniversary
DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Bulletin

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DFO On the Wing

May 2025

DFO's On the Wing for May 2025 includes a Bird Bombs program, a note about Princess Kate, an upcoming Coffeehouse Chat, 2025's Hawk Watch initial summary, and important conservation efforts.

Stream a Live Program

BIRD BOMBS: Habitat Blast — Riparian Zone

On Thursday, May 22, 2025
At 7 p.m. MT, via Zoom

Learn about the bird communities of Colorado's woodlands and riparian forests (wooded areas adjacent to bodies of water).

REGISTER

David Suddjian, DFO Field Trip Chair, presents Bird Bombs, helpful bursts of bird ID information.

Those who can't catch an initial webinar live (often on the second Thursday of the month) can view the Zoom video days later. The three dozen Bird Bombs episodes so far reside in viewable archives on both the DFO website and DFO's YouTube channel.

"DFO Presents:" Monthly programs via webinar from January - April and August - November. We take a break May-June-July and December. Videos of our past program are posted to DFO's Past Programs page.

Take Note of Good News for Birds

“Nature has been my sanctuary during cancer treatment”

From LONDON (Reuters) - Kate, Britain's Princess of Wales, said nature had been her sanctuary over the last year in which she underwent preventative chemotherapy for cancer.

"The natural world's capacity to inspire us, to nurture us and help us heal and grow is boundless and has been understood for generations... Just as nature revives and renews, so too can we. Let us reconnect nature and celebrate a new dawn within our hearts."

Princess Kate lives in luxury. But living in luxury is NOT the sanctuary she describes while dealing with a health emergency and extended treatment course. Nature is.

Join Us In Person

Field Trips

Here are a couple of examples of upcoming field trips. Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information and additional upcoming field trips. — David Suddjian is DFO’s Field Trip Chair.

Sat, May 17, 2025. Tucker Gulch (Developing Birder Trip). 7:00 – 10:00 a.m. Golden. Trip Difficulty: Easy. Up to 2 miles of walking, mostly on paved paths.

The riparian corridor should host a nice array of birds, whether they're our lingering winter visitors, hearty year-round residents, or timely spring migrants. Of course, birders of all experience levels are welcome.

Mon, May 19, 2025. Denver City Park (Patch Birding Trip). 6:30 – 10:30 a.m. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. We'll walk up to 3 miles on level sidewalks, gravel paths and across grassy meadows.

It’s spring nesting season, and birds on nests abound in Denver City Park. We'll visit the famous cormorant colony at Duck Lake, where the first nestlings are already crying to be fed. But we'll also check out two Cooper's Hawk nests and a nesting pair of Swainson's Hawks. And we will check in on others from robins and finches to Bushtits.

David Suddjian is DFO's Field Trip Chair

Coffeehouse Chat

Wednesday, May 21, 8:30 a.m.

Convivio Cafe

4935 West 38th Ave., Denver CO 80212

Convivio is a delightful Guatemalan coffee shop with a variety of coffees and crafts in the Berkeley neighborhood.

For birding before or after our coffee, Berkeley and Rocky Mountain Parks are nearby and Clear Creek and Clear Creek Valley Park just a bit further. I would gladly meet folks earlier for a bit of birding then a coffee to relax.

REGISTER

Reach Out to Fellow Enthusiasts

Report: On May 10, 2025, DFO joined the World Migratory Bird Day festival at Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood. We had 126 people visit our DFO table this year.

Opportunities to hang out with bird lovers happening soon:

- Colorado Field Ornithologists' annual conference, June 5-8, in Grand Junction. There's still time to register (through May 21) on the CFO website.

- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Fall Birding Festival, September 13, at Barr Lake State Park, 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Step Up to a Volunteer Role at DFO

DFO is a volunteer-run organization. Volunteers are our lifeblood! Can you give our club a little bit of your time?

There are many opportunities for helping DFO thrive going forward. You can find a complete list on our Volunteer Today webpage.

Report: Hawk Watch – Part 1

The history of raptor counts at Dinosaur Ridge goes back to 1990. The site is a window to the seasonal movement of raptors on the raptor flyway through Colorado. – Natalie Uschner-Arroyo is chair of DFO's Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch committee.

Reflecting on the 2025 Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch season, I'm sending my personal thanks to our volunteers and staff for the time, energy and enthusiasm you gave to our program. You gave generously of your time — rain, snow or shine, early mornings or long days — to help us monitor and learn how to conserve the incredible migrating raptors who fly through Colorado each year. Your efforts and contributions truly make a difference. Your personal stories also help Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch communicate our impact and guide us to grow in the seasons ahead.

If you're open to sharing a few thoughts, please send your notes to Natalie at dinoridgehw@gmail.com by May 20, 2025.

Keep Your Eyes on Conservation

Follow the work of DFO's Conservation Committee to preserve birds and their habitats and find resources about threats to bird populations.

Bird feeder research funding terminated by NSF

The National Science Foundation just defunded research at Virginia Tech's Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. The project collected data from more 20,000 Americans on their birdwatching habits, analyzing how outdoor feeders were affecting wildlife, but also people's mental well-being.

In a collaboration with other institutions, including the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, it tapped into Project Feeder Watch. "We were just at the peak of being able to get our findings together and do our analysis... The word 'diversity' in the grant abstract is about bird populations, not people." (NSF grant recipient)

Lakewood's Belmar Park — Keep Up the Fight; It's Losing Ground

A city-owned portion of Belmar Park in Lakewood will be graded with heavy equipment so the developer can easily build closer to their property line yielding even more market-priced rental units. The adjacent bird habitat

removal at 777 S Yarrow St will shrink the overall habitat area surrounding the park.

Protect Belmar Park in Lakewood via eminent domain. Sign the petition

For updates on the effort to save Lakewood's Belmar Park and its rookery, waterfowl and shorebirds from development, visit https://savebelmarpark.com.

U.S. Bird Populations Alarming Decline, New Report from The Bird Conservancy

Key findings from the new report show that more than one-third of U.S. bird species are of high or moderate conservation concern, including 112 Tipping Point species that have lost more than 50% of their populations in the last 50 years.

Report: DFO Business

Did you know you can order merchandise with the DFO logo from our online store. Check it out. All proceeds help support DFO projects.

DFO On the Wing, Denver Field Ornithologists' monthly newsletter, is designed to be a quick read. It's just enough to keep you updated on time-sensitive club news and events. The Communications & Outreach committee looks forward to your feedback. Thank you! - comm@dfobirds.org (Mike Fernandez)

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Bulletin

May 20, 2025

DFO's Website Down – Briefly

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Our website is down due to a problem at the website hosting service. Our web administrator is working on getting it resolved ASAP. We anticipate it will require a couple of days to resolve the problem.

We apologize for the inconvenience

Instead of our usual homepage, we're all getting this error message.

Server Error in '/' Application.

Registered or hoping to register for a DFO field trip

Please be patient, we will be back with updates.

— We appreciate your patience —

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DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 90th Anniversary

DFO On the Wing

June 2025

Want to join a Park County birding trip with a local history sidebar? An Arsenal developing birder trip? Learn what's up with summer prairie species? Discover how pedestrians in New Jersey aid a hawk's deadly attacks? Create a certified wildlife habitat in your own backyard?

Stream a Live Program

Participate in live DFO programs via webinar. Visit the Programs & Events page for more information. And visit our Past Programs page to stream a variety of topics

BIRD BOMBS: Habitat Blast — Prairie View

Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 7 p.m. MT, via Zoom

Learn about bird communities of the Colorado prairie.

Explore identification challenges of the summer season.

— David Suddjian presents Bird Bombs: helpful bursts of bird ID information.

Register

Take Note of Good News for Birds

Share success stories to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats.

The pedestrians who abetted a hawk's deadly attack

Excerpted from the Atlantic, West Orange, New Jersey. "The crossing signal—a loud, rhythmic click audible from at least half a block away—was more of a pre-attack cue, or so the hawk had realized... On weekday mornings, when pedestrians would activate the signal during rush hour, roughly 10 cars would usually be backed up down a side street. This jam turned out to be the perfect cover for a stealth attack...

To pull off the attacks, the bird had to create a mental map of the neighborhood—and, maybe even more important, understand that the rhythmic ticktock of the crossing signal would prompt a pileup of cars long enough to facilitate its assaults. The hawk, in other words, appears to have learned to interpret a traffic signal and take advantage of it in its quest to hunt. Which is, with all due respect, more impressive than how most humans use a pedestrian crosswalk."

Participate in Person

Members and nonmembers alike are welcome to join almost all DFO activities, including field trips and live programs.

Field Trips

Here are a couple of examples of upcoming field trips. Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information. — David Suddjian is DFO's Field Trip Chair.

Wed, July 9

Park County Explorations (Birds Plus Trip). 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Trip Difficulty: Moderate.

This full-day trip will combine birding at several fun spots in Park County with an exploration of the history of railroading in South Park.

Wed, July 9

Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR (Developing Birder Trip). 7:30-10:30 a.m. Trip Difficulty: Moderate.

We hope to see or hear songbirds such as grosbeaks, buntings and warblers, plus raptors. We will walk on level trails.

Upcoming Field Trips

Share an Event Report

Have you enjoyed a DFO event recently and are you open to sharing your story and photos? We'd be happy hear from you. Please let us know at comm@dfobirds.org.

Colorado Field Ornithologists Annual Convention

From Patrick O'Driscoll

DFO was well represented at this year's Colorado Field Ornithologists convention June 5-8 in Grand Junction, which included 3 days of field trips across the Western Slope. Many members belong to both clubs, whose shared history dates to the mid 1960s. DFO president Sharon Tinianow spoke of that link in a convention talk marking DFO's 90th anniversary in 2025. Our club was founded in 1935 as Colorado Bird Club, then became DFO to avoid confusion when CFO was formed as the state organization responsible for keeping official Colorado bird records. CFO hosts an annual convention, manages the CoBirds chat group, publishes the quarterly Colorado Birds journal and more.

You can learn more about these early days of the organization precursor to CFO and Denver Field Ornithologists in *The early years: Colorado's oldest birding organization hatches, fledges, and soars,* written by Sharon Tinianow in the January 2025 issue of *The Lark Bunting* (pg. 14).

Act for Wildlife Conservation

Follow the work of DFO's Conservation Committee to help preserve birds and their habitats. Add to and from your resources for learning about and addressing threats to our bird populations.

Loss of bird and other wildlife habit

The North American bird population has decreased by 2.9 billion breeding adults, a net loss of 29% over the last half-century.

Deforestation, sprawl and development, pesticides and non-native plants all contribute to our shrinking bird habitat. Think about making your home's landscape friendlier to birds and pollinators and encouraging your local government to do the same on public lands.

The National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat program is an easy way to help you turn your backyard into a certified thriving sanctuary for wildlife.

Habitat Essentials Checklist Worksheet:

- Native Plants
- Food
- Water
- Cover
- Places to Raise Young
- Sustainable Practices

Visit the NWF site to learn more, and to take the plunge. And why not opt for a Certified Wildlife Habitat Garden sign. Let you neighbors know; spread the word.

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DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Happy midsummer, everyone! The July issue of *The Lark Bunting* quarterly journal of Denver Field Ornithologists is now available on the club website at

https://dfobirds.org/DFO/LarkBunting.aspx?id=1704973219#gsc.tab=0.

Inside is exciting news: For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, DFO is planning two live and in-person meetings in this fall's lineup of evening programs — and one of them will be our club's 90th birthday party, headlined by DFO alumnus **Chris Wood**, director of eBird!

This issue also includes part three (1980s-2000) of **DFO @ 90**, our four-part history of the club this anniversary year. Plus: a feature on the return of the bird painter of DFO's Facebook page, and words and pictures from another spectacular DFO spring expedition to southeastern Arizona's bird-rich "Sky Islands" region.

Also: tips on new ways to approach your summer birding . . . details of the return of the Fall Bird Count and other news updates . . . and a look at how DFO is providing binoculars and how-to opportunities for diverse new birders along metro Denver's Sand Creek Greenway. And much more . . .

Can early fall migration be far behind? Enjoy our quarterly update, mark your calendar for **DFO's Oct. 13 birthday party,** and good midsummer birding, everyone!

Denver Field Ornithologists

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DFO On the Wing

July 2025

TOMORROW, Wednesday, join Sand Creek Regional Greenway+DFO, for a beginning birder observation of the greenway. Then on THURSDAY, learn strategies for the summer bird ID challenges via webinar.

Share an Event

We love hearing from you about past and upcoming birding events. And we are happy to share your news with our members. Contact comm@dfobirds.org.

Partnership in Motion – Sand Creek Greenway + DFO

Partnership in Motion – From Jill Boice, DFO Grants Director.

Join us on Wednesday for a walk along the Sand Creek Regional Greenway, July 16, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. This birding trip is cosponsored by the Sand Creek Partnership and DFO, in part to promote the work the partnership is doing along the corridor and to reach out to new birders. This will be a casual walk along the Greenway's riparian zone. No previous birding experience necessary. Bring binoculars if you've got them. Please register on the Sand Creek Greenway's Regional partnerships event page. We'll meet at the Smith Road trailhead, 9450 Smith Road, Denver. Contact Jill for questions.

Stream a Live Program

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BIRD BOMBS: Summer ID Challenges

Thursday, July 17 at 7 p.m.

Learn the unique birding ID challenges of the summer months — hummingbirds and more.

Register

Participate in Person

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Field Trips

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Thu, Jul 17

Waneka Lake Park & Greenlee Preserve [6:00 – 8:30 p.m.]

An evening visit to explore Waneka Lake in search of summer residents and other interesting birds. The lake, surrounding habitat, and nearby feeders should host a nice array of birds. Of course, birders of all experience levels are welcome.

(Developing Birder Trip)

Mon, Jul 21

Louviers (town) and DuPont Open Space (Douglas County) [07:30 - 10:30 a.m.]

Join us for a summer birding outing at DuPont Open Space with local expert Tom Halverstadt. Tom retired from 40 years in the wholesale nursery business and is a life-long grower of Colorado native plants. With Tom we will explore the lesser-traveled area behind the pond, which is typically inaccessible to the public.

(Denver Audubon cosponsored trip)

Upcoming Field Trips

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Member Bulletin — Starting Today — TWO+ Don’t-Miss events

Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. MT

Habitat Blast: Prairie View

BIRD BOMBS is Live Streaming TODAY, THURSDAY EVENING

Don’t miss it! Explore the bird communities of Colorado's prairie habitats and their unique bird ID challenges.

Register Now

Special ID challenges who will be in focus:

- Longspurs
- Spizella sparrows
- Peeps (the little sandpipers)
- Prairie hawks

AND THEN…

DFO has booked a four-month line up of presentations, two in person and two online. Starting later in August.

Keep your scope pointed here for details about our August 25, September 29, October 13, and November 24 programs.

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DFO On the Wing

August 2025

10,000 Bird Species and Counting: One Birder's Global Journey

Join a Live Program

Visit the Programs & Events page for more information. And visit our Past Programs page to stream a wide variety of prior topics.

Monday, August 25, 2025, 7 p.m. MT via Zoom

10,000 Bird Species and (Still) Counting: One Man's Global Checklist — by Peter Kaestner, world birder

The first person on earth to record 10,000 bird species will open DFO's fall-winter monthly program series for 2025. Peter Kaestner will recount his decades-long quest in this DFO program.

Register

Kaestner reached the 10,000 species milestone on Feb 9, 2024, when he spotted an Orange-tufted Spiderhunter in its native Philippines.

Kaestner, a retired career US diplomat, has birded 190 countries and territories and lived in a dozen of them, from India and Afghanistan to Colombia, New Guinea and Namibia.

Upon retirement in 2016, he became a full-time birder to pursue the 10K record.

Top 100 eBirders in World by species

View Peter Kaestner's eBird page

BIRD BOMBS: Habitat Blast — Prairie View

THURSDAY, Aug 21 at 07:00 p.m. (Rescheduled)

Explore the bird communities of Colorado's prairie habitats and their unique bird ID challenges.

Register

Take Note of Good News for Birds

Share success stories to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats.

Congrats to our very own Ben Jacques — 2025 Outstanding Environmental Educator

DFO field trip leader and Hawk Watch observer/educator, Ben Jacques, is the recipient of the 2025 Outstanding Environmental Educator Award. The award is given by the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education.

Over his career, Ben has worked for a variety of outdoor education organizations in various locations throughout the United States.

The photo is of Ben, in 2022, teaching a raptor class (along with NPS interpreter Karen Fernandez, not pictured) on top of Dinosaur Ridge for local school students.

"How a relationship with the sky can change your life" — An interview with our own Emma Riley

Congratulations to Emma Riley, DFO's Hawk Watch raptor biologist and

project lead, for a great interview on Denver Audubon's Curious Bird podcast.

In this episode, titled "Migratory Magic: How a relationship with the sky can change your life," Emma talks about Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch, a project of DFO, and the life of a busy field scientist.

Emma, a Colorado State University (Ft. Collins) graduate, talks about what's special about connecting with migrating raptors on Dinosaur Ridge. And how that keeps her connected and observant overall with the world around her. She expresses her joy, wonder and humility that there is still mystery up there in the ecology of the sky.

Want to learn more about DFO's Hawk Watch program? Visit DFO's HW webpage. To learn more about the science of hawk migration, check out the Hawk Migration Association's journal, Hawk Migration Studies (especially pages 1 and 7).

Participate in Person

Members and nonmembers alike are welcome to join almost all DFO activities, including free field trips and live programs.

Field Trips

Here are a couple of examples of upcoming field trips. Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information.

Thu, Aug 28

REGISTER

Fri, Aug 29

REGISTER

Bear Creek Greenbelt 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. (Developing Birder Trip) Trip difficulty: Easy

Let's explore Bear Creek Greenbelt during the evening in search of some interesting birds! The riparian corridor should host a nice array of birds, with a nice variety of year-round residents and some exciting migrants. Of course, birders of all experience levels are welcome.

Trip Leader: Ryan Corda

Bear Creek Greenbelt 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. (Developing Birder Trip) Trip difficulty: Easy

We will spend an hour 7:30 to 8:30 at the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies banding station observing the banding process. Then we will walk along the dike road observing riparian birds and if there are birds along the shore, we will scope them.

Trip Leader: Charles Chase

Upcoming Field Trips

Share an Event Report

Have you enjoyed a DFO event recently and are you open to sharing your story and photos? We'd be happy hear from you. Please let us know at comm@dfobirds.org.

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DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Greetings DFO member! I am pleased to share with you that two of our fall meetings, September 29 and October 13, are going to be in person. The details can be found on the Upcoming Programs page of the DFO website. Both programs will be videotaped for viewing later if you are unable to attend in person.

It has been a long time since we gathered in person for membership meetings. Holding two meetings in person this fall is a test to see if our members want to meet in person again. In addition, we would like to hear from you about your preferences for monthly membership meetings. Please follow this link to a brief survey and share your thoughts. The survey will be open until September 14. Here is the link to the survey: https://forms.gle/MzNAuFFSNdUAJXwz8

Thanks!
Sharon Tinianow, presidentDenver Field Ornithologists

Denver Field Ornithologists

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DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Upcoming Programs & Events

September 2025

Live Evening Program

DFO's First In-Person Program Since Covid

September 29, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Join us in person on Monday, September 29, at 6:30 p.m., as Denver Field Ornithologists host Joey Kellner at the **Lowry Conference Center**, in a live in-person program: **Trogons, Hummers & Roadrunners: Birding Southeast Arizona**.

September 29

Trogons, Hummers & Roadrunners: Birding Southeast Arizona

In a presentation as lively as his field outings, Kellner, the ageless dean of DFO trip leaders, will take us on a virtual birding tour of the magical "Sky Islands" of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts.

Each May for the past three years, Joey led unforgettable two-week DFO expeditions through the bird-rich borderlands of the Southwest. On last May's ramble, he and his field trippers checklisted an astounding 227 bird species.

Please provide an RSVP as a courtesy to help DFO estimate our attendance. Alternatively, you can visit our Upcoming Programs

and Events page and tap the Register button instead. Seating is limited.

This program will NOT STREAM live

We will meet at the Lowry Conference Center

1061 Akron Way, Denver

Map

DFO greeters will guide you to our meeting room that evening.

This program will NOT STREAM LIVE on Zoom, but a video recording will be available later for viewing in DFO's program archives at dfobirds.org and on DFO's YouTube channel.

For the past three years, longtime DFO field trip leader, former club president and Ptarmigan Award recipient Joey Kellner has led a two-week spring field excursion to southeastern Arizona and its legendary "Sky Islands" birding habitats.

Each trip, seven lucky DFO birders (chosen by lottery) joined him for this mid-May immersion into a spring migration wonderland. Joey provided his fellow birders with numerous opportunities for "lifer" bird sightings, from Mexican Spotted Owls and Elegant Trogons to an array of hummingbirds and other rarities up from winter retreats south of the Mexico border. On the most recent trip this past May, the group checklisted 227 species!

In this live evening program Sept. 29 — DFO's first in-person monthly presentation since COVID-19 — Kellner will describe the magical destinations and scores of species encountered on his DFO expeditions into the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts.

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DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 90th Anniversary

DFO On the Wing

September 2025

Join Our Live Programs

Visit the Programs & Events page for more information. And visit our Past Programs page to stream a wide variety of prior topics. Members and nonmembers alike are welcome to join most DFO activities, including field trips and monthly evening programs.

Monthly Evening Program — SEPTEMBER 2025

Live Evening Program — DFO’s First In-Person Program Since Covid

Featuring Joey Kellner

Join us in person at the Lowry Conference Center on Monday, September 29, at 6:30 p.m., as Denver Field Ornithologists hosts Joey Kellner in a live in-person program: **Trogons, Hummers & Roadrunners: Birding Southeast Arizona**.

For Kellner's program, please provide us with a courtesy RSVP via Google form or by tapping the Register button on our Upcoming Programs and Events page so that we have an estimate of the number of attendees, given our seating limitations.

September 29 at 6:30 p.m.

In a presentation as lively as his field outings...

Joey Kellner, the ageless dean of DFO trip leaders, will take us on a virtual birding tour of the magical “Sky Islands” of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts.

Each May for the past three years, Joey led unforgettable two-week DFO expeditions through the bird-rich borderlands of the Southwest. On last

May’s ramble, he and his field trippers checklisted an astounding 227 bird species.

Don’t miss this extraordinary program as we make our return to the face-to-face fellowship that marked the club’s original gatherings starting 90 years ago.

Monthly Evening Program — OCTOBER 2025

Live Evening Program — DFO’s 90th Birthday Party

Featuring Chris Wood

October 13 at 6:30 p.m.

DFO’s 90th Birthday Party — Featuring Chris Wood

Join us — again, in person — at the Lowry Conference Center on Monday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m. as DFO hosts Chris Wood (DFO alumnus, director of eBird) in a live in-person program.

The party starts at 6:30, and the program starts at 7:00.

Come celebrate DFO (birthday cake!), welcome Chris home, and mingle with friends old and new as we look forward to the last decade before DFO’s centennial.

> For Wood's program, please provide us with a courtesy RSVP via Google form or by tapping the Register button on our Upcoming Programs and Events page so that we have an estimate of the number of attendees, given our seating limitations.

Long before he collaborated in the creation of eBird, the global database and birding phenomenon, **Chris Wood** was a self-described bird nerd growing up in the Denver suburbs. In the late 1980s, seventh-grader Wood joined Denver Field Ornithologists to go on field trips and expand his precociously prodigious grasp of the world of Colorado birds.

Today, Wood is director of eBird and a prominent member of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology team at Cornell University in New York state. He is also managing director of the lab’s Center for Avian Population Studies. As the most noteworthy alumnus of DFO in the birding world today, he will speak

at a special in-person monthly evening program meeting to celebrate our club’s 90th anniversary.

Lowry Conference Center — Sept & Oct Programs

1061 Akron Way

For our September and October monthly evening programs, we will meet in person at the Lowry Conference Center in Denver, located at 1601 Akron Way.

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BIRD BOMBS: Autumn ID Challenges

Explore Colorado bird ID challenges of the fall season.

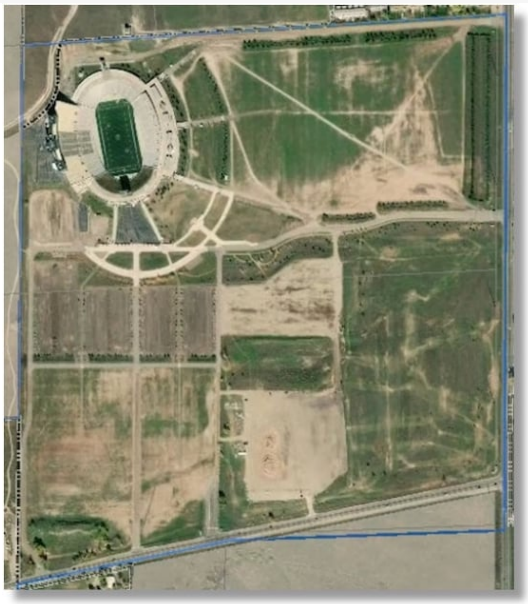
THURSDAY, October 23, at 07:00 p.m.

Register

Conservation Corner

Share success stories to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats.

Fort Collins Planning to Set Aside Space for Birds (and more) in the Rocky Mountain Foothills



The use of the former Colorado State University stadium space, a 165-acre site west of the main Fort Collins campus in the foothills below Horsetooth Reservoir, has been a question mark for the community since 2021, when the university moved the stadium onto the main CSU campus. Residents of the community will be voting on the future use of the site, known as

Hughes Stadium, on November 4, 2025.

From our DFO Conservation Committee Chair, Dr. Courtney Rella:

Using the Hughes Stadium property for everyone is an exciting endeavor. The stadium has been unused for several years and it was going to be used for housing, but the town of Fort Collins spoke and proposed several additional ideas. The "Hughes for Everyone" approach is a way for that area to be repurposed into natural areas, recreational areas, and a wildlife campus that is a collaboration between Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and Audubon of the Rockies.

This coalition of nonprofits would serve as a hub for wildlife and conservation education and the raptor rehabilitation site. Furthermore, because this site is on the front range, it is a potential safe release site for some of the rehabilitated birds if their original site of rescue is not a conducive release site.

If the site was to be completely allocated for natural areas, the natural area budget would be completely responsible for needing to renovate the space.

Field Trips

Mon, Sep 29, Bluff Lake Nature Center

8:00 – 10:30 a.m.
(Patch Birding Trip)
Trip difficulty: Moderate

Register

Bluff Lake Nature Center offers a great range of habitat in a compact area. This attracts a variety of ducks, raptors and songbirds.

Jason Bidgood, Trip Leader

Sat, Oct 4, South Republican WMA and Pipit Hill

6:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Developing Birder Trip)
Trip difficulty: Strenuous

Register

Sprague's Pipit is an infrequent visitor to the Eastern Plains of Colorado on its fall migration. We will search Pipit Hill, close to the tiny town of Hale.

Gary Witt, Trip Leader

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Upcoming Field Trips

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Join us — again, in person at the Lowry Conference Center — on Monday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m. Our guest speaker is Chris Wood: DFO alumnus and director of eBird. Come BEFORE that, at 6:30, for birthday cake and mingling. The evening will also include our annual DFO volunteer recognition program.

Please provide us with a courtesy RSVP via Google form or by tapping the Register button on our Upcoming Programs and Events page so that we have an estimate of the number of attendees, given our seating limitations.

RSVP

October 13

Ninety Years of Birding, 10 Years Ahead: DFO in the eBird Story

Long before he collaborated in the creation of eBird, the global database and birding phenomenon, **Chris Wood** was a self-described bird nerd growing up in the Denver suburbs. In the late 1980s, seventh-grader Wood joined Denver Field Ornithologists to go on field trips and expand his precociously prodigious grasp of the world of Colorado birds.

Today, Wood is director of eBird and a prominent member of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology team at Cornell University in New York state. He is also managing director of the lab's Center for Avian Population Studies.

As the most noteworthy alumnus of DFO in the birding world today, he will speak at a special in-person monthly evening program meeting to celebrate our club's 90th anniversary.

Don’t miss this extraordinary program as we make our return to the face-to-face fellowship that marked the club’s original gatherings starting 90 years ago.

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dfo 90th Anniversary DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Back in 1935... on a day in January, a group of 22 people gathered at the Colorado Museum of Natural History (now the Denver Museum of Nature & Science). Guiding the group was **Dr. Robert J. Niedrach**, the museum's curator of ornithology.

The new group eventually settled on naming themselves The Colorado Bird Club.

Its members had no inkling that their modest venture would grow through the 20th century and well into the next, **changing names in 1964 to Denver Field Ornithologists**.

Scrapbook copy of the bird club's early logo, depicting a Lark Bunting. From DFO Archives, Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

Now in 2025... on a Monday in October, DFO is having a party to celebrate our 90th anniversary.

And **YOU** are invited.

Monday, October 13, at the Lowry Conference Center.

Agenda

6:30 to 7:00 p.m. — Birthday cake, sparkling water, book sale
7:00 — Our annual DFO volunteer recognition program

And then...

Chris Wood.
(director of eBird, prominent member of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology team, from Colorado and a long-time member of DFO) Let's welcome Chris home!

His topic: **"Ninety Years of Birding, 10 Years Ahead: DFO in the eBird Story"**

Please provide an RSVP as a courtesy to help DFO estimate our attendance. Alternatively, you can visit our Upcoming Programs and Events page and tap the Register button instead. Seating is limited.

This program will NOT STREAM live

We will meet at the Lowry Conference Center

1061 Akron Way, Denver

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Early History Notes:

"A bird club in Colorado has been the dream or ideal of bird lovers for a long time." — Lillian Wagnild, Founding member of CBC/DFO, Jan. 1936

In 1937, *The Denver Post* described the CBC as "unique and interesting among the numerous clubs in the city… unusual in its aims." Unlike typical meeting-oriented clubs of the day, this one led outdoor trips "near Denver to study birds," The Post wrote. "…So enthralled have these men and women become with nature study that their meetings and trips are a vital part of their lives."

(For the four-part story on DFO history, visit the 2025 editions of the quarterly Lark Bunting journal: Jan, Apr, Jul, and coming soon, Oct.)

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DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Hello, DFO family! The October issue of *The Lark Bunting* quarterly journal of Denver Field Ornithologists, the last of this calendar year, is now available on the DFO website at

https://dfobirds.org/DFO/LarkBunting.aspx?id=1704973219#gsc.tab=0.

Inside you'll find plenty: A photo essay from a local golf course where the birdies this past summer were blue . . . a profile of another "Birdie," the beloved Denver rescuer of injured birds for decades who was also a charter member of our club . . . a visit to the mountain research realm where DFO grants help CU Boulder students study the genetic lives of chickadees . . . dozens of trailside images of DFO field trippers in the field . . . and a new honor roll of "retired' leaders who led hundreds of those outings.

Plus: The final installment (2000 – present) of **DFO @ 90**, our four-part history of the club this anniversary year. We'll also celebrate DFO this coming **Monday night, Oct. 13**, with a special DFO birthday party featuring the club's most famous alumnus, eBird director and co-founder **Chris Wood**! Come join us at 6:30 p.m. at Denver's Lowry Conference Center — birthday cake included!

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Lowry Conference Center — October's Program

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UPDATE — DFO On the Wing

October 2025

Please Note

The link to the Park Hill Park final survey has moved since initial publication of this newsletter.

If the link in the article below under Conservation (Denver Parks Park Hill Park Draft Preferred Framework survey) does not take you to the survey,

Please **TRY THIS LINK INSTEAD**.

(the survey closes on Oct 23)

Join Our Live Programs

Visit the Programs & Events page for more information and to stream from the wide variety of prior topics.

BIRD BOMBS: Autumn ID Challenges

THURSDAY, October 23, at 07:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

Explore Colorado bird ID challenges of the fall season.

Register

Evening Guest Program — NOVEMBER 2025

Featuring Scott Weidensaul — on Zoom

Mon, Nov 24, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

Caught in the SNOWstorm: Collaborative Research on Snowy

Owls

Author, field researcher, bird migration researcher, lecturer and guide, **Scott Weidensaul**, describes how the Snowy Owl's 2013-2014 southward invasion marked an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about these mysterious hunters of the Arctic.

Register

Weidensaul has written more than 30 books, including his widely acclaimed, "**Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds**," which was a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize.

His newest book, "A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds," is a *New York Times* bestseller that has been widely translated for foreign editions.

Visit Scott's website to learn more.

Field Trips

Here are a couple of examples of upcoming field trips. Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information and additional field trips.

Sand Creek Lower Reach (Developing Birder Trip)

Thu, Oct 23, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Trip difficulty: Easy

Trip Leader: Jill Boice

We will take a short stroll along Sand Creek to the confluence with the South Platte. This is a good trip for beginning birders or those who would like to help novices.

Register

Cherry Creek State Park (Birds Plus+ Trip)

Mon, Oct 27, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Trip difficulty: Easy

Trip Leader: Mary Keithler

Look for gulls, waterfowl, and a variety of birds. Habitats include deep water, marshlands, mixed grasses, and cottonwoods. We will also look at the late fall plants.

Register

Members and nonmembers alike are welcome to join almost all DFO activities, including our free field trips and live programs.

Act for Wildlife Conservation

October 28, 2025

In local conservation news, Denver will celebrate the opening of Park Hill Park on Oct 28.

The Park Hill golf course closed in 2018 and has been fenced off to the public since. At 155 acres, Park Hill will become the city's fourth largest park and the largest acquisition of its kind in Denver in more than 100 years.

Initially, Park Hill Park will open as is and operate as open space from sunup to sundown. Fencing will remain with key entryways for community access. The park will become more accessible as infrastructure improvements are made.

DFO encourages members to do counts on eBird at the site starting Oct 28. The park is located on Colorado Blvd and 35th Ave. Add your input to the Denver Parks Park Hill Park Draft Preferred Framework survey (the survey closes on Oct 23).

Denver has noted that the historical significance of the land on which Park Hill Park resides traces back to the tribal lands of the Hinono'eiteen (Arapaho), Nuuchu (Ute), and Tsistsistas (Cheyenne) and has significance within the Black community and the fight for social justice. The conversion of the golf course is inseparable from its urban legacy, and planning the return of this green space to the Denver community will center on building an equitable and resilient resource that is shared by all.

Take Note of Good News for Birds

DFO Mission: To promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats

About that 90th Anniversary Party…

Our program on October 13 featured a fascinating and entertaining presentation by DFO alumnus, Chris Wood. The program surpassed all past DFO in-person meetings — we had 126 attendees! Thanks to all who joined the celebration and program.

It was encouraging to hear Wood describe the impact of the global community of birders who increasingly contribute to the big data that scientists, and in turn worldwide habitat advocates, use to make fact-based efforts aligned with data-based trends. He also described the many innovations coming up for eBird, Merlin, Birds of the World and the Cornell Lab in general. All good news for birds and birders.

To all those who couldn't make it, take a well-worth-it moment in time to view the recording, soon to be posted on our Past Programs page.

Denver Field Ornithologists
OTW Monthly Newsletter Editor: Mike Fernandez

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DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Thanks for attending DFOs meeting on October 13 at the Lowry Conference Center. It was fun to celebrate with you! We would like to know your thoughts about the Lowry Center as a meeting site, so please take a few minutes to complete this brief survey: https://forms.gle/m11JJuBxYfEGxGus6

Many thanks in advance for sharing your thoughts!

DFO Board of Directors

Denver Field Ornithologists

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Trip difficulty: Easy

Trip Leader: Jill Boice

We will take a short stroll along Sand Creek to the confluence with the South Platte. This is a good trip for beginning birders or those who would like to help novices.

Register

Cherry Creek State Park (Birds Plus+ Trip)

Mon, Oct 27, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Trip difficulty: Easy

Trip Leader: Mary Keithler

Look for gulls, waterfowl, and a variety of birds. Habitats include deep water, marshlands, mixed grasses, and cottonwoods. We will also look at the late fall plants.

Register

Members and nonmembers alike are welcome to join almost all DFO activities, including our free field trips and live programs.

Act for Wildlife Conservation

October 28, 2025

In local conservation news, Denver will celebrate the opening of Park Hill Park on Oct 28.

The Park Hill golf course closed in 2018 and has been fenced off to the public since. At 155 acres, Park Hill will become the city's fourth largest park and the largest acquisition of its kind in Denver in more than 100 years.

Initially, Park Hill Park will open as is and operate as open space from sunup to sundown. Fencing will remain with key entryways for community access. The park will become more accessible as infrastructure improvements are made.

DFO encourages members to do counts on eBird at the site starting Oct 28. The park is located on Colorado Blvd and 35th Ave. Add your input to the Denver Parks Park Hill Park Draft Preferred Framework survey (the survey closes on Oct 23).

Denver has noted that the historical significance of the land on which Park Hill Park resides traces back to the tribal lands of the Hinono'eiteen (Arapaho), Nuuchu (Ute), and Tsistsistas (Cheyenne) and has significance within the Black community and the fight for social justice. The conversion of the golf course is inseparable from its urban legacy, and planning the return of this green space to the Denver community will center on building an equitable and resilient resource that is shared by all.

Take Note of Good News for Birds

DFO Mission: To promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats

About that 90th Anniversary Party…

Our program on October 13 featured a fascinating and entertaining presentation by DFO alumnus, Chris Wood. The program surpassed all past DFO in-person meetings — we had 126 attendees! Thanks to all who joined the celebration and program.

It was encouraging to hear Wood describe the impact of the global community of birders who increasingly contribute to the big data that scientists, and in turn worldwide habitat advocates, use to make fact-based efforts aligned with data-based trends. He also described the many innovations coming up for eBird, Merlin, Birds of the World and the Cornell Lab in general. All good news for birds and birders.

To all those who couldn't make it, take a well-worth-it moment in time to view the recording, soon to be posted on our Past Programs page.

Denver Field Ornithologists
OTW Monthly Newsletter Editor: Mike Fernandez

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dfo 90th Anniversary
DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

November's Guest Program

Mon, Nov 24, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. Via Webinar

Caught in the SnowStorm: Collaborative Research on Snowy Owls

Author, field researcher, bird migration researcher, lecturer and guide, Scott Weidensaul, describes how the Snowy Owl's 2013-2014 southward invasion marked an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about these mysterious hunters of the Arctic.

Register

His newest book, “A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds,” is a *New York Times* bestseller that has been widely translated for foreign editions.

Weidensaul has written more than 30 books, including his widely acclaimed, “Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds,” which was a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize. Weidensaul's website.

Timely Suport for DFO

Every year in this season we count on you to consider options to help DFO thrive — with membership, donations, and volunteering.

Join or Renew | **Donate through Colorado Gives** | **Volunteer**

Denver Field Ornithologists

Monthly Publications Editor: Mike Fernandez

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Invasion of Snowy Owls, upcoming field trips, Membership-Donations-Volunteer Opportunities, a new conservation concern, plus good news for birds. -- View in browser

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 90th Anniversary

DFO On the Wing

November 2025

Join Our Live Programs

Visit the Programs & Events page for more information and to stream from the wide variety of prior topics.

Evening Guest Program — NOVEMBER 2025

Featuring Scott Weidensaul — on Zoom

Mon, Nov 24, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

Caught in the SNOWstorm: Collaborative Research on Snowy Owls

Author, field researcher, bird migration researcher, lecturer and guide, **Scott Weidensaul**, describes how the Snowy Owl's 2013-2014 southward invasion marked an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about these mysterious hunters of the Arctic.

Register

Weidensaul has written more than 30 books, including his widely acclaimed, "**Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds**," which was a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize.

His newest book, "A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds," is a *New York Times* bestseller that has been widely translated for foreign editions.

Visit Scott's website to learn more.

Timely Support for DFO

Just once a year—in this season—we count on you to consider options to help Denver Field Ornithologists thrive, with membership (new and renewed), donations, and volunteering.

Visit our Support DFO page to learn more.

Membership. Annual rates remain unchanged: Individual membership is $30, family membership is still $45, and student membership (under 23 years of age), is only $15.

Donations. If you log in to DFO, our donation page makes it easy to donate via PayPal. If you prefer, you can donate through **Colorado Gives** and add to current matching opportunities, available through Dec 9.

Volunteering. Our outreach includes two roles for our Hawk Watch program:

- **Hawk Watch Volunteer Coordinator.** During the Hawk Watch Season (March 1 - May 10): coordination of Hawk Watch volunteers, arranging for full coverage during each day of the season. Responsible for contacting volunteers during delays and cancellations due to weather conditions. Off season: Organize names and contact information for volunteers in an already created database. Communication with the HW Committee about volunteer needs.
- **Hawk Watch Volunteer Coordinator Assistant.** Main duties during the Hawk Watch Season: Assist with coordination of hawk watch volunteers. Fill in for the Lead Volunteer Coordinator if they are not available.

Field Trips

Here are a couple of examples of upcoming field trips. Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information and additional field trips.

Washington Park (Developing Birder Trip)

Fri, Nov 28, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Trip difficulty: Easy

Trip Leader: Ryan Corda

A Weekly Winter Round-up around Washington Park in search of ducks

Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR — South side hotspots

Sun, Nov 30, 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Trip difficulty: Moderate

Trip Leader: Jason Bidgood

For this trip we'll visit multiple eBird hotspots

and other birds. In this series we keep an eye on how the park's bird population evolves throughout the season. Continuing trip on Fri, Nov 28.

Register

on the south side of the refuge. Stops may include Lake Mary for winter sparrows, Lake Ladora for ducks and other water birds, and Lower Derby for water birds and raptors.

Register

Members and nonmembers alike are welcome to join almost all DFO activities, including our free field trips and live programs.

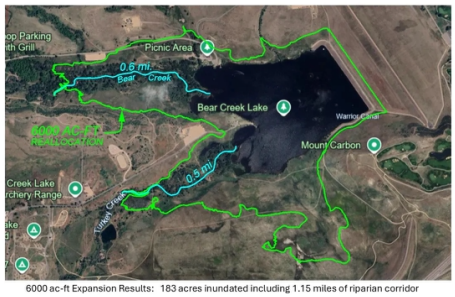
Act for Wildlife Conservation

DFO's focus on conservation goes beyond our close-in metro area, as conservation concerns require a wide angle lens.

The Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study

November 17, 2025

Heads Up: The Bear Creek Lake reallocation planning process is underway now



6000 ac-ft Expansion Results: 183 acres inundated including 1.15 miles of riparian corridor

The Colorado Water Conservation Board is investigating the potential impacts of adding a water storage component to Bear Creek Reservoir in Lakewood, CO.

For the proposal by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, visit https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/CWCB/0/edoc/229320/17.pdf

For a public reaction to this proposal, visit **Save Bear Creek Lake Park**. It claims that thousands of cottonwood trees along Bear Creek and Turkey Creek would be removed, destroying critical riparian habitat. Visit the take action page.

Please review these documents and weigh in with your thoughts on our Facebook group page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/dfobirds.

Take Note of Good News for Birds

Conservation at Hughes Stadium in Fort Collins

Fort Collins delegated a group of randomly selected residents to the task of finding a plan for the 165 acres of stagnant land at the former Hughes Stadium property in the area below Horsetooth Reservoir. On the recent FoCo November 4 local ballot, question 2H detailed a multiuse solution. Alternatively, ballot question 303 proposed turning the property into a city-managed natural area to be used as 100% open space.

The multiuse option prevailed. The approved plan is to establish the following areas:

- Natural area, restored: Approximately 60 acres (40% of the property) including ecosystems that support birds and wildlife
- Wildlife conservation & rescue center: 30 acres, including hands-on education, habitat demonstration and restoration, and research opportunities
- Trail system: 30 acres
- Community gathering: 35 acres for a city park with community gathering areas

For background, visit the September 2025 story in the Conservation Corner, On the Wing.

Denver Field Ornithologists
Monthly Newsletter Editor: Mike Fernandez

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dfo 90th Anniversary
DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Hello birders!

Each year in the fall, we reach out to you to renew your membership in DFO. If you have enjoyed DFO's field trips, programs, and newsletter, but have not yet joined, this is the best time to become a member. If you join or renew now, your membership will begin immediately and extend all the way through 2025.

This is also a great time to consider gift memberships for the people on your holiday gift list who enjoy birding.

Whether you want to renew, join, or purchase a gift membership, the DFO website, https://dfobirds.org/ makes it easy. Go to the Membership page and you will be prompted to log in. The benefits of membership are outlined there, and you can make your selections. You can opt to pay electronically through PayPal (you can use a credit card without setting up a PayPal account) or send in a check.

While you're renewing your membership please consider supporting DFO with a gift to one of our dedicated funds. You can read about your options for donating on our website at the Donate to DFO page

Thanks in advance for making it possible for DFO to continue offering field trips, programs, and more in 2025!

Denver Field Ornithologists

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Sign up to join the CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT — Southwest Denver Circle — Sat, Dec 20, 2025

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Sign up by November 24 to join one of the area counts.

The Christmas Bird Count is the nation's longest-running community science bird project. CBC data have been used in hundreds of analyses, peer-reviewed publications, and government reports over the decades.

Sign up by Monday, November 24, 2025

AUDUBON Christmas Bird Count — DENVER SOUTHWEST

Count Date: Saturday, December 20, 2025. Sign up by November 24 to join one of the area counts.

Look for additional info in early December. In the meantime, reach out to the leader of your area of interest to join the count.

Area #	Area Location	Area Leader	Contact Info
1	Red Rocks Park	Gregg Goodrich	303-655-9135
2	Lower Bear Creek	Scott Somershoe	615-829-3573
2A	Bear Creek Lake Park	Cyndy Johnson	303-378-1335
3	Bow Mar/Marston	Luke Pheneger	phenegerluke@gmail.com
4A	Lower South Platte - East	Cole Sage	colesage03@gmail.com
4B	Lower South Platte - West	Glenn Walbek	juncos@comcast.net
5	Highline Ditch	Jason Zolle	zollejd@gmail.com
6	Plum Creek	Norm Erthal	303-917-2596
7A	Middle South Platte - West	Sue Summers	253-678-3721 or summerssue@hotmail.com
7B	Middle South Platte - East	Audrey Hicks	Audrey@denveraudubon.org
8	Chatfield Reservoir	Joey Kellner	303-978-1748
9	Upper South Platte *	Jill Holden	720-288-4018
10	Lower Deer Creek (Chatfield Farms)	Barbra Sobhani	barbramaher@comcast.net
11	Upper Deer Creek	Wes Donnell	720-648-7305 or wdonnell7584@gmail.com)
12	Yegge Peak	Audrey Boag	aboag@ecentral.com
13	Doublehead Mountain	Amy Davis	amyjaned21@hotmail.com
14	North Turkey Creek	Ed Furlong	303-956-8321
15	Indian Hills	Ryan Dibala	ryan@gobirdingman.com
16	Upper Bear Creek	Laura Steadman	lauramsteadman@gmail.com
17	Ken Caryl Ranch	David Suddjian	dsuddjian@gmail.com
18	Garrison Gate	Archer Silverman	archer.silverman@gmail.com
19	Morrison/Willowbrook	Chris Gilbert	804-214-1508
20	Willow Creek	Dale Pate	575-706-4584
21	Mount Lindo/Willow Springs	Chris Sherry	303-807-3645

The greater Denver counts take place within established 15-mile diameter circles, each organized by a count compiler. Within each circle are many specific areas to count, each with an area leader—as listed here for the CBC for the southwest Denver circle.

CBC welcomes birders of all skills sets to join in the count.

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Monthly Newsletter Editor: Mike Fernandez

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This special edition of our 1st-of-month Upcoming Programs bulletin includes details in support of the AUDUBON 2025 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT in Denver, plus the announcement of our upcoming BIRD BOMBS program. View in browser

BIRD BOMBS Habitat Blast: Winter Birds Around Town

Thu, Dec 11, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. Via Webinar

Winter bird communities in urban areas of the Front Range

REGISTER

Timely Suport for DFO

Every year in this season we count on you to consider options to help Denver Field Ornithologists thrive — with membership (new and renewed), donations and volunteering.

Visit our Support DFO page to learn more about our volunteer-run organization.

Membership

Annual rates remain unchanged: Individual membership is $30, family membership is still $45, and student membership (under 23 years of age), is only $15.

Donations

If you log in to DFO, our donation page makes it easy to donate via PayPal. If you prefer, you can donate through Colorado Gives and add to current matching opportunities, available through Dec 9.

Volunteering

We have many opportunities for volunteers, including two roles for our Hawk Watch program:

Hawk Watch Volunteer Coordinator. During the Hawk Watch Season

(March 1 - May 10): coordination of Hawk Watch volunteers, arranging for full coverage during each day of the season. Responsible for contacting volunteers during delays and cancellations due to weather conditions. Off season: Organize names and contact information for volunteers in an already created database. Communication with the HW Committee about volunteer needs.

Hawk Watch Volunteer Coordinator Assistant. Main duties during the Hawk Watch Season: Assist with coordination of hawk watch volunteers. Fill in for the Lead Volunteer Coordinator if they are not available.

Join or Renew | Donate to DFO | Volunteer

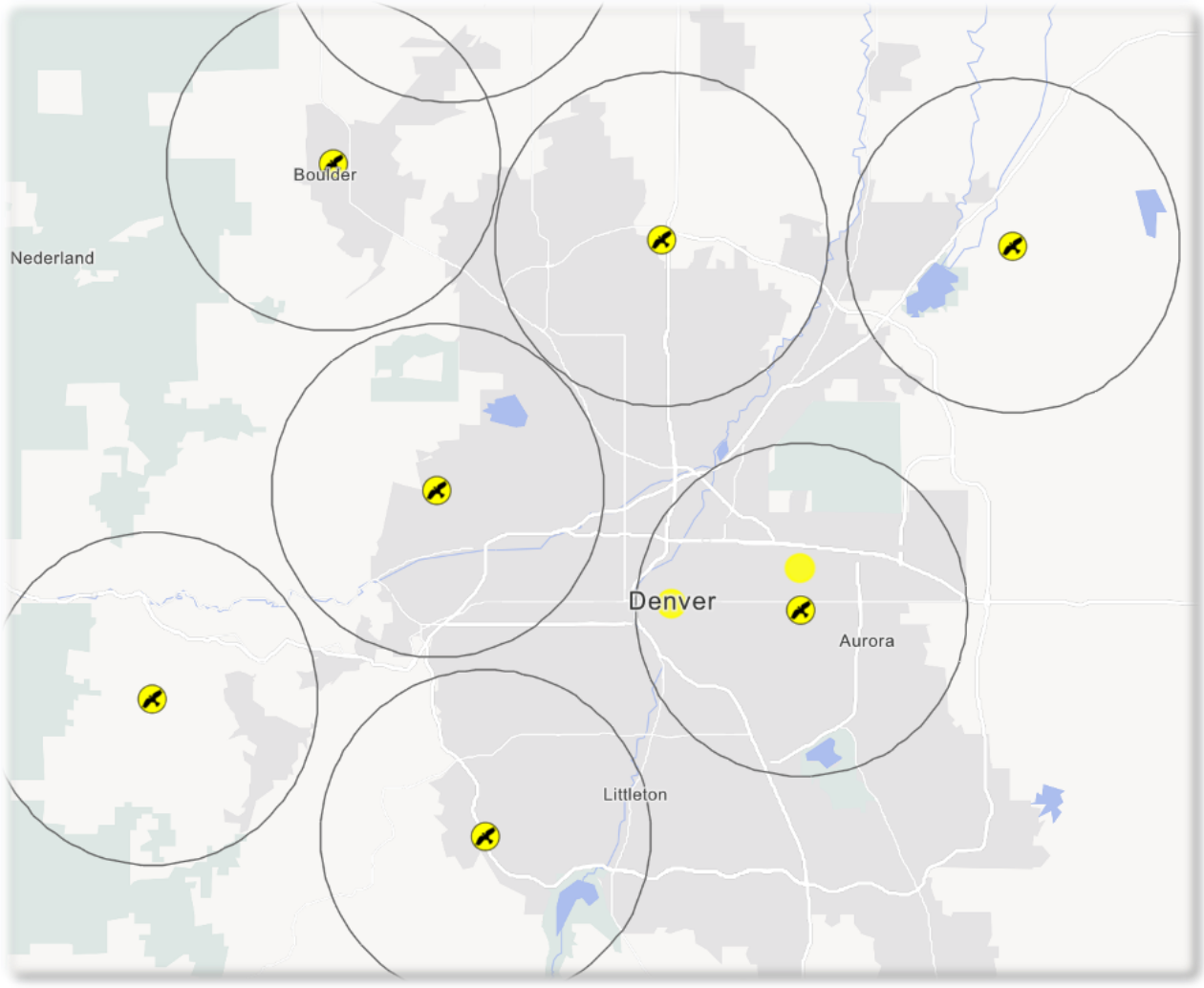
Christmas Bird Count 2025

Audubon is holding its 126th Christmas Bird Count from Dec 14, 2025, to Jan 5, 2026. The CBC is the nation's longest-running community science bird project. Its data have been used in hundreds of analyses, peer-reviewed publications, and government reports over the decades.

To participate in the CBC: Join an existing CBC circle by contacting the circle compiler or area leader in advance of the count day. Follow their instructions and learn what data to collect. Go out on count day to your assigned location and document your observations. Finally, submit your data to your compiler in a timely manner.

The CBC is a great way to learn about a new birding area and meet some great people. The CBC welcomes birders of all skills sets. Participation is free. To learn more, visit Audubon CBC.

Here is the map of Christmas Bird Count 15-mile diameter circles in the Denver area. To look up the compilers for these circles: Click the map below to open the CBC website, then search for Denver, Colorado, USA. Click the bird icon for the circle's popup contact information.



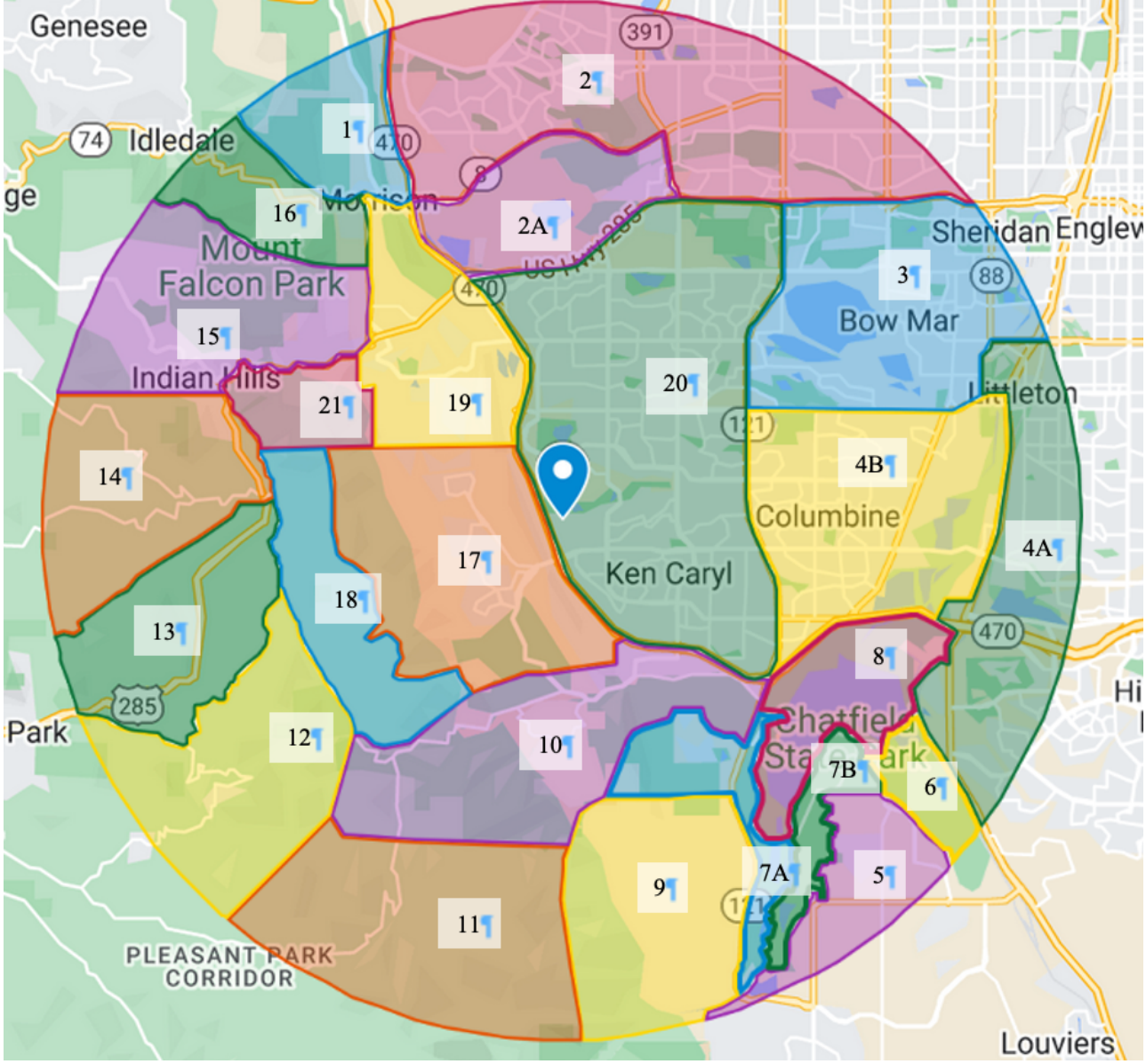
Denver Area Circles

In this bulletin we are highlighting two circles in the Denver area: Denver (sponsored by National Audubon) and Denver Urban (sponsored by Denver Audubon).

THE DENVER CIRCLE Count Date: Saturday, December 20, 2025

The 15-mile diameter Denver count circle, now in its 71st year, is divided into 24 count areas, each with an area leader. To participate, please contact the area leader (see below). If you would like to help in an area that still needs additional observers, call the Denver count circle compiler (see below).

* To participate in Area #9, you must have already contacted the area leader prior to November 24.


Genesee
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Idledale
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470
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Mount
Falcon Park
Sheridan
Englew
3
88
Bow Mar
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Indian Hills
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21
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Littleton
121
4B
14
Columbine
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17
Ken Caryl
18
13
470
8
285
Park
12
10
7B
6
7A
5
9
11
PLEASANT PARK
CORRIDOR
Louviers

AREA	LOCATION	AREA LEADER	CONTACT INFORMATION
1	Red Rocks Park	Gregg Goodrich	303-655-9135
2	Lower Bear Creek	Scott Somershoe	615-829-3573
2A.	Bear Creek Lake Park	Mary Geder	mfg5000@live.com
3	Bow Mar/Marston	Luke Pheneger	phenegerluke@gmail.com
4A.	Lower South Platte - East	Cole Sage	colesage03@gmail.com
4B.	Lower South Platte - West	Glenn Walbek	juncos@comcast.net
5	Highline Ditch	Jason Zolle	zollejd@gmail.com
6	Plum Creek	Norm Erthal	303-917-2596
7A.	Middle South Platte - West	Audrey Hicks	Audrey@denveraudubon.org
7B.	Middle South Platte - East	Steve Stachowiak	720-256-6583
8	Chatfield Reservoir	Joey Kellner	303-978-1748
9	Upper South Platte *	Jill Holden	720-288-4018
10	Lower Deer Creek (Chatfield Farms)	Barbra Sobhani	barbramaher@comcast.net
11	Upper Deer Creek	Wes Donnell	720-648-7305 or wdonnell7584@gmail.com)
12	Yegge Peak	Audrey Boag	aboag@ecentral.com
13	Doublehead Mountain	Amy Davis	amyjaned21@hotmail.com
14	North Turkey Creek	Ed Furlong	303-956-8321
15	Indian Hills	Ryan Dibala	ryan@gobirdingman.com
16	Upper Bear Creek	Laura Steadman	lauramsteadman@gmail.com
17	Ken Caryl Ranch	David Suddjian	dsuddjian@gmail.com
18	Garrison Gate	Archer Silverman	archer.silverman@gmail.com
19	Morrison/Willowbrook	Steve Meier	stevem2717@gmail.com
20	Willow Creek	Dale Pate	575-706-4584
21	Mount Lindo/Willow Springs	Chris Sherry	303-807-3645

Denver count circle compiler: Joey Kellner (303-978-1748), SWDenverBirding at gmail.com

Feeder Coordinator: Bob Shade wrshade3 at gmail.com – Feeder watchers, please send your list of species and numbers of each species to the email above as soon as possible after count day.

Compilation Potluck: After a day in the field, we invite ALL participants to attend the compilation potluck meeting to warm up, chat with other birders, and find out how the count fared. It is a lot of fun. We will start gathering around 5:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room at the Chatfield State Park headquarters on the south side of the lake near the Heronry Overlook (State Parks vehicle entry pass required).

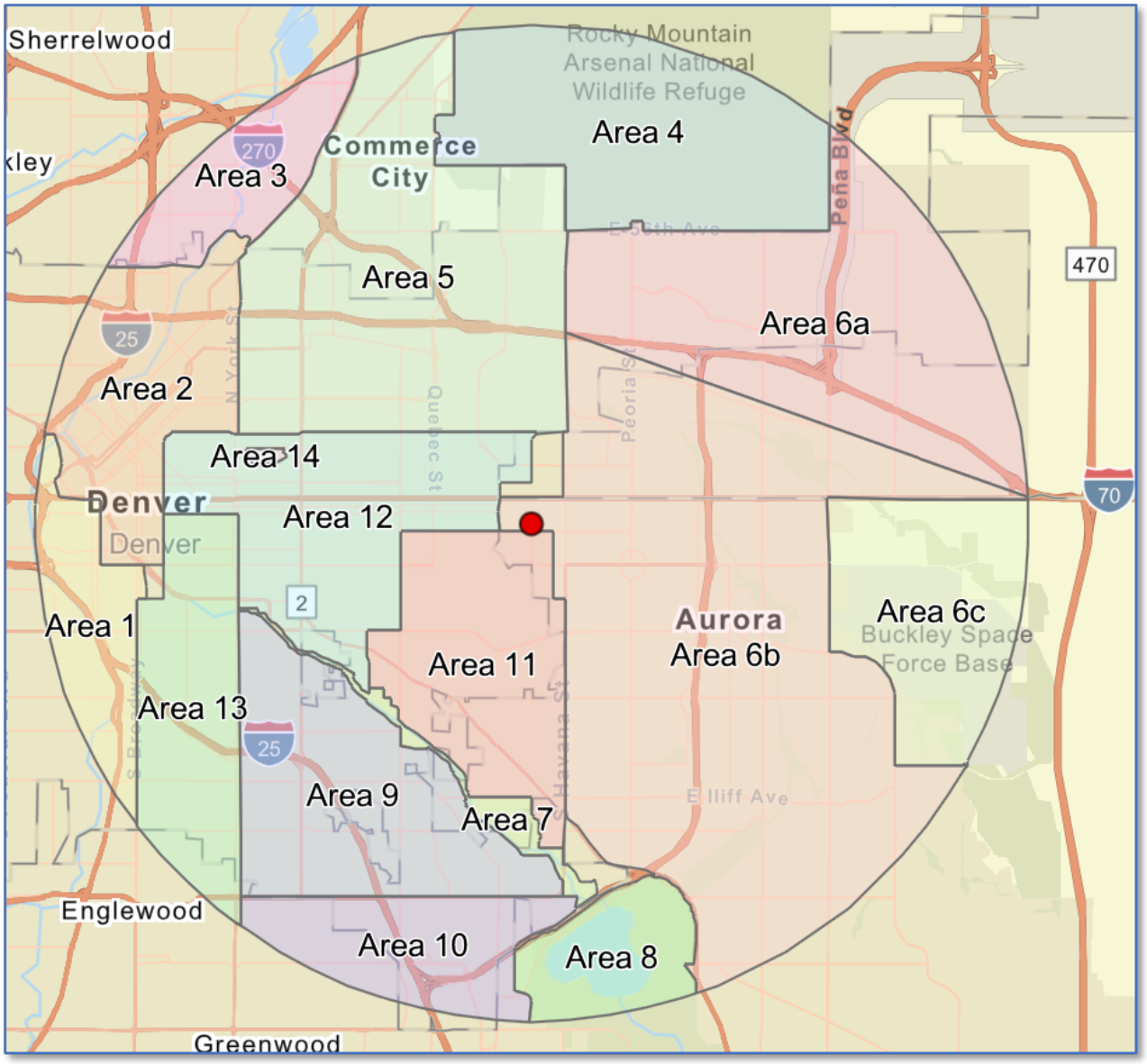
Contact potluck coordinator, Laura Steadman (lauramsteadman at gmail.com), and let her know what you will be bringing (or ask her what items she needs more of). Bringing food is NOT a requirement to join in the fun! The compilation itself will start closer to 5:30 p.m., when representatives from all areas within the circle arrive and report in with their sightings.

THE DENVER URBAN CIRCLE

Count Date: Thursday, January 1, 2026

The 15-mile diameter Denver (Urban) count circle is divided into 16 count areas, each with an area leader. To participate, please register (free) at Denver

Audubon CBC.



Denver Audubon will provide further details regarding meeting points and more via email closer to the date of the count. Come be part of this joyful winter tradition and make your birds “count” for conservation. Whether you’re a seasoned birder or brand new and just curious, you’re welcome. Some groups walk trails or parks, others drive roads, and some folks even participate from home by watching their feeders — there’s a role for everyone.

Denver Urban count circle compiler: Barbara Masoner

Denver Field Ornithologists

Monthly Publications Editor: Mike Fernandez

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Dear DFO Members-

This is just a quick reminder to those of you whose DFO Membership will expire the end of this year to renew! Link to renew

Don't forget that your membership and donations are tax deductible and would make a great Holiday gift.

Thanks!

DFO Membership

Cyndy Johnson

Denver Field Ornithologists

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Winter field trips are filling up fast, but we still have great openings — A DFO-focused 2026 calendar PLUS your purchase includes a donation to DFO's field trips program — And here comes the long-running Audubon Christmas Bird Count, right around the corner for Denver metro area birders. Join us at DFO!

View in browser

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

DFO On the Wing

December 2025

Join Our Live Programs

Visit the Programs & Events page for more information and to stream from the wide variety of prior topics.

BIRD BOMBS — Habitat Blast: Winter Birds Around Town

Thursday, Dec 18, at 7 p.m.

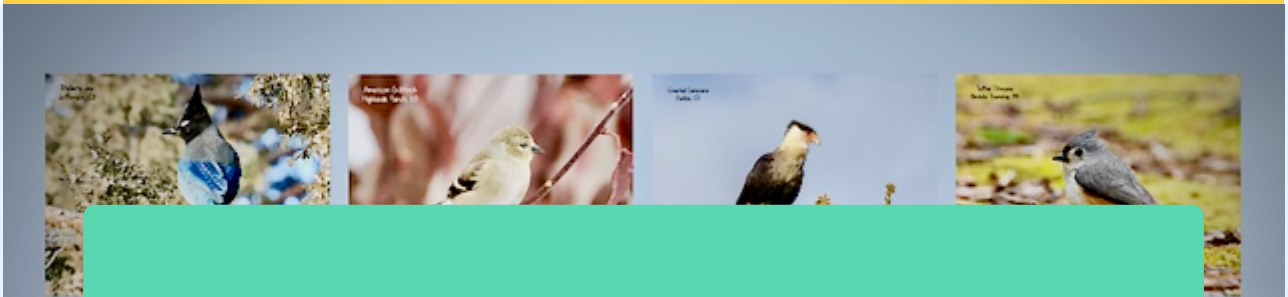
We have rescheduled BIRD BOMBS Habitat Blast: Winter Birds Around Town to Thursday, Dec 18, at 7 p.m. Explore the winter bird communities of the Front Range metro areas.

Register

Consider Timely Support for DFO

In this time of year, we count on you to consider options to help Denver Field Ornithologists thrive — with your membership, donations, and volunteering.

Visit our Support DFO page to learn more.



Most photos were taken on DFO field trips during 2025. Check it out!

This 2026 Bird Calendar includes the bird photography of DFO member and avid field trip participant Melody Serra — and she will donate all proceeds **through December 31, 2025,** to support our DFO field trips program.

Membership. Annual rates remain unchanged: Individual membership is $30, family membership is still $45, and student membership (under 23 years of age), is only $15.

Donations. If you log in to DFO, our donation page makes it easy to donate via PayPal.

Consider directing your donation to the DFO Grants Program. DFO has awarded Research, Education and Conservation Fund grants since 1995. We have given financial assistance to an amazing array of projects: habitat restoration, research, a film about ptarmigans, and more. Please consider giving generously this year.

Our grants funding helped pursue research on Cinnamon Teals by Casey Setash, who commented that "grants like those that DFO provides make a disproportionate impact to the budding ornithologist." Casey is now an avian researcher at Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

You can direct donations of any size to several listed DFO causes or go with the general fund (to be designated as determined by the elected DFO board).

Volunteering. Our outreach includes two roles for our Hawk Watch program:

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watch volunteers. Fill in for the Lead Volunteer Coordinator if they are not available.

Field Trips

Here are a couple of examples of upcoming field trips. Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information and additional field trips.

Rosy-Finch Ramble — Denver Audubon Cosponsored

Sat, Jan 17, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Trip difficulty: Moderate

Trip Leader: David Suddjian

Let's go on an adventure to the mountains to find Rosy-Finches and other mountain birds. We may find the three species of Rosy-Finch, and other "mountain finches" that are around.

Register

South Platte Park (South End) (Denver Audubon Cosponsored)

Fri, Jan 23, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Trip difficulty: Easy

Trip Leader: Cynthia Breidenbach

For this trip we'll visit multiple eBird hotspots on the south side of the refuge. Stops may include Lake Mary for winter sparrows, Lake Ladora for ducks and other water birds, and Lower Derby for water birds and raptors.

Register

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Act for Wildlife Conservation

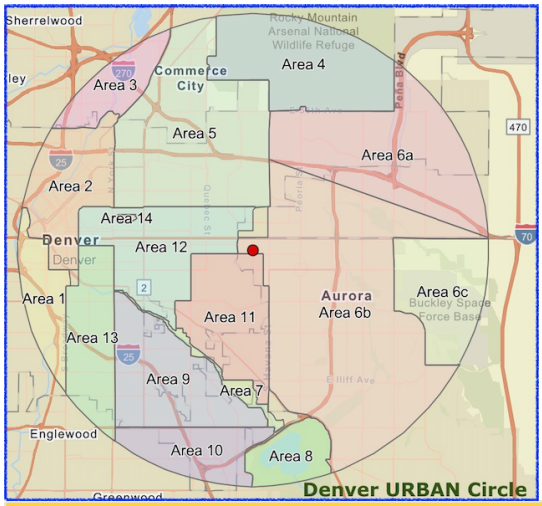
DFO's focus on conservation goes beyond our close-in metro area, as conservation concerns require a wide angle lens.

Audubon's 126th Christmas Bird Count

Audubon is holding its 126th Christmas Bird Count this December-January. The CBC is the nation's longest-running community science bird project. Its data have been used in hundreds of analyses, peer-reviewed publications, and government reports over the decades.

In this newsletter we are highlighting two 15-mile diameter CBC circles in the Denver area: the **Denver URBAN** Circle — supported by Denver Audubon — and the **DENVER Circle** — supported by National Audubon.

CBC welcomes birders of all skill sets and has no fees. All are welcome to join in this wonderful experience. To learn more, visit Audubon CBC.



January 1, 2026

DENVER URBAN CIRCLE

Volunteers will do the Denver Urban count on New Year's Day, January 1, 2026.

CBC's DENVER URBAN count circle is divided into several count areas, each with an area leader.

To participate, please visit Denver Audubon CBC, click the button to register online, approve the liability waiver, and register. Here's a list of Denver URBAN Christmas Bird Count areas:

Area 2 South Platte, City of Cuernavaca Park — led by Audrey Hicks

Area 3 South Platte, Heron Pond/Heller Natural Area — led by Lara Cueni

Area 5 Sand Creek, Montbello, and Commerce City — led by Mike Serruto

Area 6a North Aurora, First Creek at DEN Open Space — led by Felice Lyons

Area 6b Bluff Lake, Morrison Nature Center, West Central Aurora — led by Steve Hebert

Area 7 Cherry Creek Trail, Cook Park — led by John Sakulich

Area 8 Cherry Creek State Park — led by Karla Kalceviv

Area 9 North of Hampden, Wellshire Golf Course — led by Mary Keithler

Area 11 Fairmont Cemetery, Windsor Gardens and Lowery — led by Patti Galli

Area 12 City Park and Park Hill, Denver Museum of Nature and Science — led by Mike Fernandez

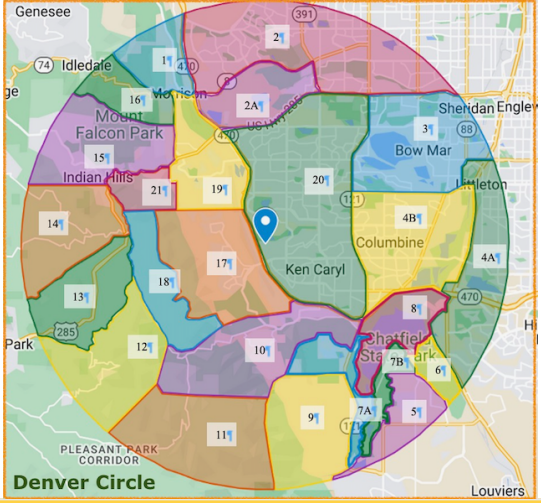
Area 13 Washington Park, Denver Country Club and Botanic Gardens — led by Barbara Masoner

Note: The Denver Urban circle all-around Compiler is Barbara Masoner

December 20, 2025

DENVER CIRCLE

The Denver CBC Circle count is on December 20. The focus of this circle is southwest Denver. To



participate in one of these area counts, contact the area leader listed below.

AREA	LOCATION	AREA LEADER	CONTACT INFORMATION
1	Red Rocks Park	Gregg Goodrich	303-655-9135
2	Lower Bear Creek	Scott Somershoe	615-829-3573
2A.	Bear Creek Lake Park	Mary Geder	mfg5000@live.com
3	Bow Mar/Marston	Luke Pheneger	phenegerluke@gmail.com
4A.	Lower South Platte - East	Cole Sage	colesage03@gmail.com
4B.	Lower South Platte - West	Glenn Walbek	juncos@comcast.net
5	Highline Ditch	Jason Zolle	zollejd@gmail.com
6	Plum Creek	Norm Erthal	303-917-2596
7A.	Middle South Platte - West	Audrey Hicks	Audrey@denveraudubon.org
7B.	Middle South Platte - East	Steve Stachowiak	720-256-6583
8	Chatfield Reservoir	Joey Kellner	303-978-1748
9	Upper South Platte	Jill Holden	720-288-4018
10	Lower Deer Creek (Chatfield Farms)	Barbra Sobhani	barbramaher@comcast.net
11	Upper Deer Creek	Wes Donnell	720-648-7305 or wdonnell7584@gmail.com)
12	Yegge Peak	Audrey Boag	aboag@ecentral.com
13	Doublehead Mountain	Amy Davis	amyjaned21@hotmail.com
14	North Turkey Creek	Ed Furlong	303-956-8321
15	Indian Hills	Ryan Dibala	ryan@gobirdingman.com
16	Upper Bear Creek	Laura Steadman	lauramsteadman@gmail.com
17	Ken Caryl Ranch	David Suddjian	dsuddjian@gmail.com
18	Garrison Gate	Archer Silverman	archer.silverman@gmail.com
19	Morrison/Willowbrook	Steve Meier	stevem2717@gmail.com
20	Willow Creek	Dale Pate	575-706-4584
21	Mount Lindo/Willow Springs	Chris Sherry	303-807-3645
□	Feeder Watch	Bob Shade	wrshade3@gmail.com

Monthly Newsletter Editor: Mike Fernandez

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PO Box 620671, Littleton, CO 80162

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